

REYNOLDS HISTORICAL
GENEALOGY COLLECTION



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Nathaniel Focelyn

BORN JANUARY 31, 1796

DIED JANUARY 13, 1881

Focelyn Plant Cleaveland

BORN AUGUST 22, 1853

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FROM THE
COMMEMORATIVE BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD
OF
NEW HAVEN COUNTY

1902

NATHANIEL JOCELYN

NATHANIEL JOCELYN, artist, was born in New Haven, January 31, 1796. His father, Simeon Jocelyn, was noted especially for his skill in mathematics. The son learned the art of watchmaking, but when only fifteen began a thorough course of study in drawing, with himself as instructor, and three years later he apprenticed himself to an engraver. At the age of twenty-one he entered into partnership with Tisdale, Danforth & Willard in the Hartford Graphic & Bank Note Engraving Co. and later, with Mr. Danforth, he virtually founded the National Bank Note Engraving Co.

In 1820 Mr. Jocelyn gave up engraving, changing the graver for the pencil, and soon after established himself as a portrait painter in New Haven, demonstrating his capacity to transfer, to canvas, faithful likenesses. His skill was the theme of conversation and there was a common desire to secure portraits painted by him, many of which continue to whisper his fame. Several of his portraits appeared in the first exhibition of the National Academy, and in 1849 he was elected academician.



He was also elected honorary member of the Philadelphia Art Union. In 1830 he traveled and studied in Europe with his friend, Prof. S. F. B. Morse, inventor of the telegraph system. In 1844 he received the gold palette for the best portrait exhibited in the State of Connecticut. The Yale Portrait Catalogue shows that more of the portraits owned by the University were painted by Jocelyn than by any other artist except Col. Trumbull.

When Webster's Unabridged Dictionary was revised in 1847 all the words pertaining to portraiture were intrusted to Mr. Jocelyn and found their way into that work as they left his pen. His name appears in connection with his definitions. As a teacher he had among his pupils Thomas Rossiter, William Oliver Stone and other artists of note. Later he served for many years, with great success, at the head of the art department of the American Bank Note Co., of which he was one of the founders, and still later he retired from active business and returned to New Haven to exercise his art. His studio was amid the pleasantest of surroundings in the Yale Art Building, a structure in the erection of which by his friend, Mr. Street, he had manifested so much interest. H. W. French, in giving a history of Yale Art School, in his introductory chapter to "Art and Artists in Connecticut" says: "Mr. Jocelyn's influence has been powerful for art throughout his long residence in the

city; and Mr. Street many times confessed that it was chiefly through suggestions and appeals of Mr. Jocelyn that the fact of this important lack was impressed upon his mind. Hence, in a sense, the art school owes its existence no less to Mr. Jocelyn than to its founder, Mr. Street." An enthusiastic spirit tempted him early in life beyond the confines of art into large real-estate transactions, the laying out of streets and the inauguration of many improvements that are the pride of New Haven to-day.

Mr. Jocelyn's common ancestry with the Trumbull family, which gave Connecticut three governors and the renowned "soldier-artist," Col. John Trumbull, is traceable from Capt. John Higley, who came from England to Windsor in 1666, later removing to Simsbury. John Higley was a representative to the Assembly for thirty-seven terms in twenty-two years, and was prominently identified with the discovery and development of the rich copper mines in Granby, which afterward became the "Newgate" of Connecticut. In view of the artistic talent which displayed itself in both Col. Trumbull and Nathaniel Jocelyn, it is a significant fact that an historian has referred especially to the skill as an artist of Capt. Higley's son, Dr. Samuel Higley, from whom Mr. Jocelyn is descended. The currency known as "Higley coppers," specimens of which are on exhibition at the Connecticut Histori-

cal Society in Hartford and the United States Mint at Philadelphia, were designed and manufactured by this Dr. Higley, who also owned the mines.

Mr. Jocelyn was a quiet yet cordial sympathizer with the slave. The story of the Amistad Africans who were captured by the Spaniards for slaves and brought into the port of New Haven is a matter of history and familiar to all. Mr. Jocelyn was much interested in their behalf and painted the picture of the African leader, Cinquez, which now hangs in the rooms of the Historical Society in New Haven, where is also a fine painting of the artist himself, by Harry Thompson.

Until his death, which occurred January 13, 1881, at the age of eighty-four, at his home on York street, in New Haven, he was for forty-six years deacon of the North Congregational Church, of New Haven. He was widely known as a man of scholarly tastes, an extensive reader and one of the best authorities on events of the past, both local and general. In announcing his death the *New York Journal of Commerce* said: "Fifty years ago the name of Jocelyn was better known on the face of a bank note than the name of the bank itself. His portraits were among the cleverest works of the kind produced in this country. He was the founder of the most celebrated of the bank note companies and was a leader in the highest style of art for more than two generations."

The following letter appropriately serves to preserve his memory:

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN,
Cor. 23d Street and 4th Avenue,
NEW YORK, JAN'Y. 25, 1881.

To Mr. Jocelyn P. Cleaveland,

DEAR SIR:

The Academy desires to express its high regard for the memory of its venerable and esteemed honorary member, the late Nathaniel Jocelyn, and its sympathy with his bereaved family and friends.

As a member of the Academy in its earliest years, and as an active and efficient fellow worker with its founders, more than half a century ago, Mr. Jocelyn is remembered and lamented by his contemporaries who survive him, and by the later generation of artists, by whom his good life and works are not less known and appreciated.

In his long and honorable career, he had the happiness to witness the growth of the Academy, in whose progress he was so greatly interested, and to share alike its early trials and its late triumphs; contributing always, both in its darker and in its brighter days, his full quota of successful work.

His prolonged life embraced, indeed, nearly the whole period of the history of American art; and to have filled a worthy and useful place in such a history is a lasting monument to his memory and a noble record for his posterity.

With great respect, I am, dear sir,

Truly yours,

[Signed]

T. ADDISON RICHARDS,

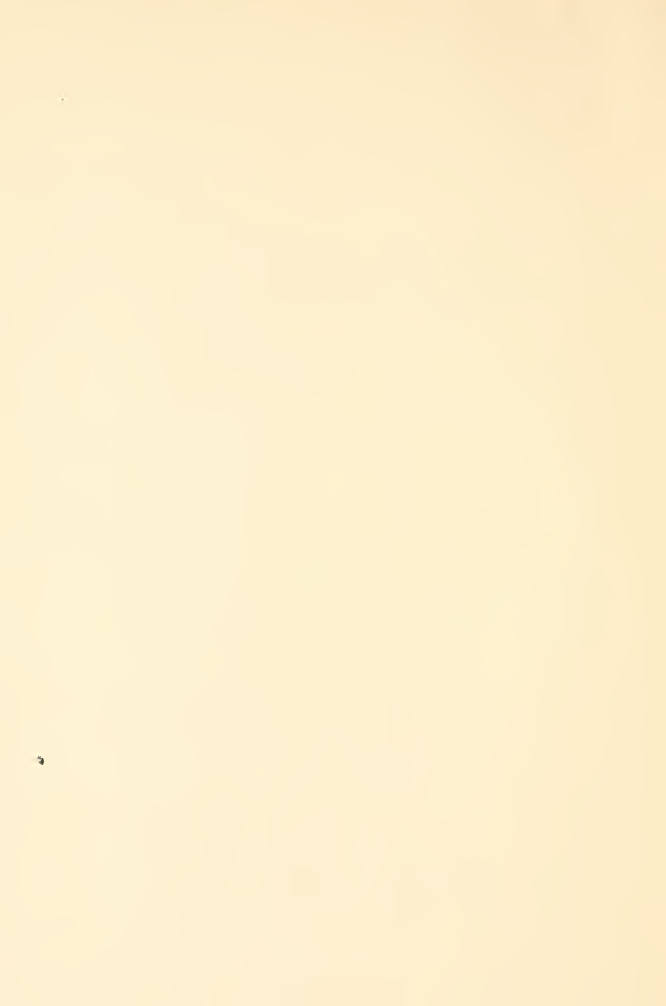
Cor. Sec. N. A.

Mr. Jocelyn married July 5, 1818, Sarah Atwater, daughter of Capt. Samuel Plant, of New Haven. They had seven children, one son and six daughters, the son dying in childhood.

JOCELYN PLANT CLEAVELAND, LL. B.

JOCELYN PLANT CLEAVELAND, LL. B., lawyer, son of Rev. James Bradford and Elizabeth H. (Jocelyn) Cleaveland, was born in New Haven August 22, 1853, in York street, where he lived and died, at what had been for many generations the ancestral home. The ancestral line of the subject of this sketch dates back not only to five of the "Mayflower" pilgrims, among them Gov. William Bradford and John Howland, but to those of an earlier age, the Alsopps, of King John's time, the Drakes, of Exmouth fame, and the Honeywoods, of the time of Henry II.

Moses Cleveland, from whom Mr. Cleaveland was descended, was the first American ancestor of the Cleaveland family. He came from Ipswich, in the County of Suffolk, England, in 1635, locating in Woburn, Mass.; married Ann, daughter of Edward Winn, and died about 1701. Several of his sons settled in what is now Canterbury, Conn., about the close of the seventeenth century, and to them many of the name in Connecticut trace their ancestry. Moses Cleveland's son, Samuel, from



whom Mr. Cleaveland was descended, was one of the seven who founded the first church at Canterbury June 13, 1711.

Our subject's father, Rev. James B. Cleaveland, who died in 1889, was a Congregational clergyman of talent and courage. He was pastor over churches in Connecticut for many years, having been previously pastor of the Congregational Church in South Egremont, Mass. James B. Cleaveland graduated from Yale in 1847, and from Yale Seminary several years later. By common ancestry Mr. Cleaveland was related, paternally, to three Presidents of the United States, John Adams, John Quincy Adams and Grover Cleveland, and to one Connecticut governor, Gov. Chauncey F. Cleveland, the latter being also descended from Moses Cleveland.

Mr. Cleaveland's mother is a woman of culture and a poetess of recognized ability, her poem "No Sects in Heaven" having been widely read in both this country and England. Her father, Nathaniel Jocelyn, was a noted portrait painter and engraver.

Mr. Jocelyn P. Cleaveland's genealogical record is directly traceable to several early settlers of distinctly local interest, among them William Peck, Richard Miles and Richard Baldwin.

William Peck, who came to this country in 1637 with Govs. Eaton and Hopkins and Rev. John Dav-

enport, signed the first compact for the New Haven Colony in June, 1639, and was an original proprietor and freeman, and deacon of the original church, the First Church of New Haven.

Richard Miles, also deacon of the First Church, was prominent in the affairs of both New Haven and Milford, where he was one of the judges in civil affairs, Stone No. 4, in the Milford Memorial Bridge, being specifically set apart to his memory.

Richard Baldwin was one of the settlers of Milford, a member of the General Court and one of the committee "for ye consummating of matters betwixt Connecticutt and us," when the two colonies were joined in 1664. His name is perpetuated by Stone No. 7 in the Milford Memorial Bridge.

The subject of this sketch, after preliminary work in the New Haven preparatory schools, and a course of study in the Scientific Department of Yale College, entered Yale Law School, from which he was graduated in 1876, being admitted to the New Haven County Bar the same year. Here in his native city he practiced his profession for five years, being for four years connected with the firm of Wright & Harrison in the National New Haven Bank Building, and for one year preceding his death in business for himself in the Cutler building. His career, bright with hope, came to a sudden end at the age of twenty-seven, his death, which occurred June 15, 1881, being the result of over-exertion in



the sun. He was a member of the North Congregational Church and of its choir and musical director in its mission Sunday-school. He was connected with the State Militia, serving in Company F, Second Regiment, C. N. G. (New Haven Grays), and was a member of Hiram Lodge, No. 1, F. & A. M.

At the time of his death Mr. Cleaveland was contemplating publishing a book relative to the rights and duties of police officers and the board of police commissioners. Especially interested in the dangers encountered by brakemen, he was gathering facts that he might secure legislation in their behalf. Hopeful, considerate of the interests of others more than of his own, persevering, an earnest and ingenious pleader at the Bar, he was the life of the social circle and gave early promise of success in the vocation he had chosen.

The esteem in which he was held by his brother lawyers is indicated by the following resolutions adopted at the meeting of the New Haven County Bar held in his honor:

Resolved, That we regard with profound sorrow the death of Jocelyn P. Cleaveland, one of the junior members of the Bar, who, by God's all wise providence, has suddenly been called from our midst in the full vigor and energy of his early manhood, while yet at the threshold of his professional life.

Resolved, That in the death of our late brother, this Bar has lost a diligent student, a genial and social mem-

ber, and a conscientious gentleman, who by his earnest application and strict attention to his professional duties, bid fair to become an able lawyer.

Mr. Cleaveland was never married. In addition to his father and mother, above referred to, he was survived by his brother, Livingston W. Cleaveland, now Judge of Probate in New Haven, and by his sister, Mrs. Robert L. Rice, of Granby, Conn. A younger brother, Foster Wild Cleaveland, died in infancy in 1856. His father died in 1889.





